

McClellan Hospital near Philadelphia
August 23rd 1863.

Miss Deborah Weston:

My kind friend!

I have the pleasure again in answering
your letter of the 21st inst. which I received this morning.
— I am very satisfied now — seeing that everything
has been done for me in obtaining a furlough to come
home on a short stay. — Dr. Brown has received the
letter from Mr. Humphrey and I thought by his talk
that I should get home now — but I know that
it is impossible for me to get home — I shall have
to go out into Virginia and visit the Rebels with fire
and sword to please Uncle Sam — as a true Patriotic
Soldier, and for my Longing for a speedy Restoration
of Unity and Peace — when then I may return to my
Family without any favoritism by an Doctor like R. E. Brown.

I give my furlough up now — and hope to be with
my Camrades who need my presence in doing duty
to have us strong prepared for another fight to
demoralize Lee's Army & to take Richmond —

My kind friend I am very Well now my Arm
is all right and does not pain me at all —
It was last Friday as Dr. Brown received the letter
from Mr. Humphrey — ~~It~~ was on the List then to be sent
away to do duty again — but as I heard by Dr. Brown
that he had just received a letter on my behalf, and that
he was sorry that he could not do anything for me — on
account that I was Well — So therefore I reported me to
Dr. Murphy for Examination in hope to see Raymond —
and I succeeded that I remained in the Hospital
while the rest about 200 were sent off — I went then
to Dr. Brown again and told him, that Dr. Murphy had said
that he would give me a chance to stay in the Hospital till I
got perfectly well — and so I requested to apply for me
again to get a furlough — he promised me to do it
as usual — This morning I thought to ask him
again what the prospect was — he said Well Heavens
it is no use for me to write an application — for
it will do no good — there are no blanks —

I went to Dr. Murphy some days ago and told him the
whole story about Dr. Brown and I — Dr. Murphy who
is a Gentleman said — I have no doubt that Dr. Brown
has done for you all he could — the reason that you did not get your
furlough is — that there were no blanks — a soon as we have some you
shall have a furlough — tell Dr. Brown so, that I said so by
Well I told him — but here we are they seem to be
well I don't know what — they take comfort in their
Hospital they do not know how a man feels who has been over a year in the

from into Virginia Camp life - They take no interest in
the Matter - I should like to know what Governor Andrew
wrote to this Hospital on my behalf in getting a furlough -

Please allow me to state the letter to you! - August 2nd 1862
His Excellency John A. Andrew, Governor of the State of Massachusetts

Sir: Personally unknown to your Honor, it is with
great diffidence and Reluctance that I take this
Method to address you: But being a Volunteer in our Army,
and a Citizen of the State of which you are the Chief-
Magistrate, I hope you will excuse me for doing so in
Matters of the greatest importance to me and to my Family
- As a Member of the 9th Mass Battery - I participated in
the glorious Battle of Gettysburg, where I was Wounded in my
left Arm. Although my injury is not dangerous, it
will require some time for a full Recovery - and as pressing
Family and business Relations make a short Visit to my home
imperatively necessary - I entreat your Excellency to exert
your influence in obtaining a furlough for me as soon as
possible from Lewis Taylor Chief Surgeon in Charge of this Hospital
- It was some time ago that I made application for it, but
as it is difficult to be obtained without assistance, and
as time presses heavily I solicit a favorable Recommendation
from you to the Surgeon in Charge in my behalf - Several years
ago - I had the good fortune, to see your Honor personally
at Hingham at the great White snake demonstration, and also
at Weymouth where I had been in Dr. H. I. Weston's Employ
If my request be granted, you would very much oblige my friends
My Wife and Child at Weymouth, as also your obedient Servant
A. J. C.

Now you see - that I have done everything - to get home - but
as a Soldier who must Obey have been disappointed - and give
it up now - in hope that the War will come to its end soon - when
then I will be free again - to enjoy Liberty with those I do love

I thank you and all my friends who have been so kind to write
to the Doctor - Please inform Almira that I shall not be able
to come home this time - We must wait in the future!

She and you indeed have done for me all you could do
and see that there is or can not be anything more done for me.

I am glad that Almira Sister Joanna has come on a Visit - I
think myself it is better for Almira to go down with Joanna
to stay a spell with her Parents - especially during
Winter - I shall think it over - if Almira likes to go

I do not know a Dr. Cornell here in Philadelphia
and I think he would do us no good - for the
Doctors of this Hospital say - that there are no blanks - and I suppose
if there is any I shall be gone -

has Peter not been accepted at the Medical Examination? -

I enjoy me here in Philadelphia first night - I went to Fairmount Water Works
and have seen all the Machinery - which works the Water up to a few hundred feet
which then supply the City with water - I suppose you see it too - or know
its power - I been in all the Parks in the City - Independence Hall
etc - the Siege at Charleston is slow but sure like Vicksburg it will
be soon in our hands - I am glad to hear that Mrs Weston is well my
kind regards to her - in hope that all the rest is well - My kind remembrance to
Mrs Chapman and to the Dr. and Miss Emma -

your affectionate friend
Augustus Plafie